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Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In re Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus Requirements for
Emergency Information and Video Description: Implementation of the
Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010,
MB Docket No. 12-107**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 17, 2013; Andy Scott, Vice President, Engineering; Stephanie Podey, Associate General Counsel; and I, of the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (“NCTA”), met with Steven Broeckaert, Michelle Carey, Maria Mullarkey, Mary Beth Murphy, Alison Neplokh, Jeffrey Neumann, and Diana Sokolow of the Media Bureau, and Rosaline Crawford, Eliot Greenwald, and Karen Peltz Strauss of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, regarding the Commission’s implementation of the accessible emergency information and apparatus requirements of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (“CVAA”).

At the meeting, we discussed issues raised in NCTA’s written comments in the above-captioned proceeding. In particular, we explained that the Commission’s focus on accessible emergency information is appropriately limited to emergency information provided solely as a visual crawl or scroll during non-news programming, and that the instant proceeding does not encompass emergency alerts delivered through the Emergency Alert System (“EAS”).¹ We also noted that the Commission should not expand the definition of “emergency information.”²

We explained that cable operators will be able to provide emergency information delivered in an audio format so long as broadcasters include it in the same audio stream in which video description is being provided today.³ We discussed how cable operators are already

¹ See NCTA Comments at 2-5, 6-7.

² See *id.* at 5-6.

³ See *id.* at 8-10.

providing video description and that enhancements to accessing this material will be addressed in an upcoming rulemaking to implement Section 205 of the CVAA, which will require cable operators and other MVPDs to make text menus and guides audibly accessible.⁴ We further explained that cable operators currently provide customer support for handling video description concerns, and that additional rules in this area are not necessary or appropriate.⁵

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diane B. Burstein

Diane Burstein

cc: Steven Broeckaert
Michelle Carey
Maria Mullarkey
Mary Beth Murphy
Alison Neplokh
Jeffrey Neumann
Diana Sokolow
Rosaline Crawford
Eliot Greenwald
Karen Peltz Strauss

⁴ *See id.* at 12-13.

⁵ *See id.* at 15.